



English – Unit 2

Context: Truth and Reality

Activity: Introduction to the Context

Explore how some of the ideas and arguments associated with the Context relate to your own life. Consider, for example:

- whether different members of your extended family remember past family events differently
- occasions when you have found yourself in a situation where you wanted to challenge someone else's version of an incident or occasion
- occasions when, in an argument with somebody, discovering that in fact you were on the same side, but using different words to describe the same thing, or emphasising different aspects in the debate.

Common sayings reflect the fact that people view the world in different ways. For instance, are you likely to say that the glass is half full, or half empty?

Do you look at the world through rose-colored glasses?

Do you indulge in wishful thinking?

Do you see the forest or the trees?

Are you a big-picture person or do you have an eye for detail?

Is your head firmly screwed on, or in the clouds?

Questions

1. Is there such a thing as objective reality, or does every individual's perception of reality differ – a subjective reality?
2. How might we become aware that our perception of reality is not the same as another person's?
3. When might we become concerned that someone else perceives reality in a way that is different from our own?
4. When does it matter whether or not different people share the same perception of reality? In such cases, how might those concerned try to establish 'the facts'?
5. Whose version of 'the facts' is likely to prevail when there is a dispute?
6. What does it take for someone to keep believing that their version of reality is accurate, even though other people question it or deny it?